

YPKC President's Letter

I am excited to serve as your President for Mayor John Cranley's Young Professional Kitchen Cabinet (YPKC). Experts say a city's cultural amenities, job prospects, and quality of life initiatives are what improves an economy and creates a city's vibrancy. The YPKC works with the Mayor on policies that encourage young professionals to take ownership and accountability of their city.

We will work with Mayor John Cranley on his five point strategic plan that includes focus areas around Job Growth, Public Safety, Minority Inclusion, Fiscal House, and Quality Neighborhoods. Mayor Cranley's YPKC will be an action based co-learning community that excites young professionals, and gives them a platform to engage in public policy. The YPKC's means of engagement is designed to change the conversation from problem-solving to possibility and make connection and relationship the point. The work of the YPKC is to value and bring to the center the gifts of those in the community that remain on the margin.

Our model of engagement is to host gatherings with other YPs and diverse citizens in the community to accomplish two things; (1) to address the stated purpose and (2) to be an occasion for each person to decide to become engaged as an owner of an initiative. The YPKC leadership and members will focus on both of these purposes. To get the business agenda right and to design the place and experience in a way that moves the culture toward shared ownership.

We will use the term "gathering," because the word has more significance than what we think of as just a "meeting." A gathering is hosted; it is the product of an act of hospitality. Meetings are intended for production rather than hospitality. They are mostly designed to take the past and will it into the future. So they become one more version of the past. A new future is created when each gathering (or meeting) becomes an opportunity to deepen accountability and commitment through engagement.

The civic engagement we are talking about will hold the YPKC to two tasks; to create a context that nurtures an alternative future, based on inclusiveness and hospitality, and to initiate conversations that shift our experience, which occurs through the way we bring people together and the nature of the questions we use to engage them. Mayor Cranley will be holding a 2014 YPKC Kickoff event on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 6:00-7:00pm in Cincinnati City Hall. The Mayor will lay out his vision for the YPKC. Please make arrangements to attend. Cincinnati City Hall is located at 801 Plum Street. There will be a happy hour to follow at a local pub.

Sincerely,

Derek Peebles
YPKC President